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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/638,560	08/14/2000	Bernard DeGroeve	0007314/0001	9964

7590 09/22/2005

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Washington, DC 20006-1109

EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/638,560

Applicant(s)

DEGROEVE ET AL.

Examiner

FIRMN BACKER

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-9,11-90,93-145 and 155 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-9,11-90,93-145 and 155 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, filed in the Appeal Brief, filed Jul 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4, 6-9, 11-90, 93-145 and 155 under USC 102(e) have been fully considered and are persuasive. However, upon further consideration, the prosecution is re-opened and a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of new found arts.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-90, 93-145 and 155 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-90, 93-145 and 155 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hilt et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,133).
5. As per claims 1, 11, 12, 21, 33, 36, 43, 47-50, 84, 90, 93, 97, 111, 116 and 155, Hilt et al teach an electronic multiparty accounts receivable and accounts payable system for use by at least two system participants who have contracted with one another and who may owe debts to

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one another under one or more underlying contracts, the system comprising electronic data storage means for storing accounts receivable and accounts payable information concerning the system participants; data entry means for entering accounts receivable and accounts payable information reflecting debts owed to a creditor participant by a debtor participant into the electronic data storage means of the electronic multiparty accounts receivable and accounts payable system electronic invoicing means for constructing an electronic invoice reflecting amounts owed to the creditor participant by the debtor participant on one or more underlying contracts electronic invoice presentment means for presenting the electronic invoice reflecting amounts owed to the creditor participant by the debtor participant for acceptance or rejection, authorization means for allowing the debtor participant to authorize the electronic invoice, wherein the authorization signifies the debt reflected in the electronic invoice has become a payment obligation due on a date certain; and confirmation means for allowing the debtor participant to confirm the electronic invoice without modification wherein the confirmation transforms the debt reflected in the electronic invoice owed by the debtor participant into an independent payment obligation due on a date certain for a sum certain and free of defenses to the underlying contract wherein the creditor participant transfers the independent payment obligation due on the date certain for the sum certain to a third party entity as an electronic promissory note for settling a separate obligation between the creditor participant and the third party entity (*see figs 1-5, 12 and columns 10 lines 38-63, 116 lines 1-18 line 50*)

6. As per claims 2-4, 6-9, 13-20, 22-32, 35, 35, 37-46, 51-90, 93-99, 98-110, 112-115, 117, 144 and 145 Hilt et al teach an inventive concept of electronic multiparty accounts receivable

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and accounts payable system that encompass all the limitation disclose in the claims and related to the independent claims. Therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.


***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (*see form 892*).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
FIRMN BACKER  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

September 18, 2005